

## Summary Report of Occurrences Reviewed

### From January 26 – 30, 2009

**Summary:** 18 occurrences at 12 sites reviewed during this period.

#### Significant Occurrences (2)

##### **Fire Protection – 1 occurrence at 1 site**

- **EM – Savannah River Site (Significance Category 3).** On January 24, Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) personnel extinguished a fire at the SWPF construction site using fire extinguishers and water. The Savannah River Site Fire Department was not notified until about an hour after the fire was extinguished. Firefighters concluded the fire was caused by a torpedo propane gas heater that was being used to heat a concrete curing tent. The heater was positioned too close to wooden concrete forms, which overheated and ignited. The curing tent was erected on January 20, and a fire watch was established to monitor the heater. However, sometime after midnight on January 24, two fire watches abandoned their posts and took an unauthorized break in the Craft Break Area located about 150 yards away. At approximately 3:45 A.M., the Construction Shift Superintendent saw flames and smoke at the SWPF basemat in vicinity of the curing tent.

##### **Industrial Hygiene Exposure – 1 occurrence at 1 site**

- **NA – Sandia National Laboratories (Significance Category 3).** On January 28, a post doctoral employee working in building 518, room 1303, started pouring approximately 100-150 ml of aqua regia (hydrochloric and nitric acid mixture) into a waste container that was presumed to be empty, causing a chemical reaction that released chlorine. The employee immediately placed the unclosed container inside an acid cabinet and exited the lab. The employee experienced eye irritation, went to medical, and was released with no restrictions. A HazMat team's instruments detected levels of chlorine inside the acid cabinet that were well above the ACGIH limits for personnel exposure, therefore it was assumed that the employee exceeded the ACGIH limit (0.5 ppm) for chlorine. The HazMat team closed the lid to the waste container and declared the lab safe to enter based on subsequent instrument readings. An examination of the waste container revealed a label stating that the container held sulfuric acid. The sulfuric acid reacted with the hydrochloric acid and produced the chlorine gas.

**Other Occurrences (16).** See Table (Note: The Table includes the occurrences listed above).

Occurrence Category	Number of Occurrences				Number of Sites
	E&E	NNSA	SC	DOE Total	
Injury - Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety	2	7	0	9	6
Near Miss	1	0	0	1	1
Authorization Basis	0	1	0	1	1
Radiological Concerns	0	1	0	1	1
Environmental	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Safety	1	0	0	1	1
Shipping/Quality Assurance	0	0	0	0	0
Criticality Concerns	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Operations	1	0	0	1	1
Conduct of Operations	1	0	0	1	1

Occurrence Category	Number of Occurrences				Number of Sites
	E&E	NNSA	SC	DOE Total	
Electrical Safety	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Accident	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failures	0	0	0	0	0
Safeguards and Security	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect & Counterfeit Parts	1	1	1	3	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	

### Secretarial Office Summary

National Nuclear Security Administration	10 occurrences	(6 sites)
Office of Environmental Management	6 occurrences	(4 sites)
Office of Nuclear Energy	1 occurrence	(1 site)
Office of Science	1 occurrence	(1 site)